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13TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 13, 2007

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The Honorable Leslie V. Norwalk
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Ms. Norwalk:

As you know, I continue to be extremely concerned about the marketing tactics used by certain Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. I firmly believe that Medicare beneficiaries are being duped into signing up for MA plans through illegal marketing techniques and false or misleading information.

Attached please find a letter sent to you by staff attorneys at Bay Area Legal Aid. These attorneys have uncovered proof of fraudulent marketing that I am convinced took place in and around my Congressional district. It is clear from the attached documents that WellCare agents targeted limited English proficient Medicare beneficiaries with false promises and misleading statements and materials.

I ask for your immediate attention to the issues raised by the Bay Area Legal Aid attorneys. Please respond to me within 14 days with your action plan for addressing these marketing abuses in my district. I also request to be copied on any future correspondence CMS may have with Bay Area Legal Aid regarding this matter.

Marketing abuses like those outlined here are unacceptable and should be stopped immediately. I urge CMS to immediately implement a corrective action plan with WellCare and impose significant penalties against the plan and its agents for these violations.

I look forward to your prompt response on this issue.

Sincerely,



Pete Stark
Chairman
Ways & Means Subcommittee on Health

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